Catalogue of American Amphibians and Reptiles.

Summers, A.P. 2001. *Caecilia volcani.*

Caecilia volcani Taylor

Caecilia volcani Taylor 1969a:315. Type locality, "El Valle de Antón, Coclé, Panamá (elev. 550 m)." Holotype, University of Kansas Natural History Museum (KU) 203035, adult female, collected by E.H. Taylor and C. Myers, 11 July 1966 (examined by author).

• **CONTENT.** No subspecies are recognized.

• **DEFINITION.** Adult *Caecilia volcani* are medium-sized (TL to 320 mm) caecilians with 112–124 primary annular folds and 14–37 secondary annular folds. The eyes are visible under the skin, splenial teeth are present, the tongue has dark narial plugs, and the total length divided by the midbody width is 30–37.

Coloration in life is a uniform slate gray, vaguely lighter on the head, neck, and lighter still on the lips and underside of the snout. In preservative, the dorsum of the animal is dark charcoal gray with a lighter shade on the sides and venter. Annular folds are darker than the lateral coloration. The snout is light tan, as are the margins of the lower jaw and a small circle at the vent.

• **DIAGNOSIS.** Three other members of the genus *Caecilia* are found in the same general region as *C. volcani*. Of these, *C. nigricans* has many more primary and secondary folds (150–188 primary, 42–62 secondary), and *C. isthmica* has more primary annuli (131–147), as does *C. leucocephala* (118–131). In *Osaecilia ochrocephala*, the grooves of the primary folds are edged with black, whereas the other two species of *Osaecilia* that occur in southern Central America, *O. osae* and *O. elongata*, lack secondary folds. *Caecilia volcani* can be distinguished from species in the genera *Dermophis* and *Gymnopis* by the tentacle and tentacular foramen, which lies just ventral to the nostril rather than well posterior to it.

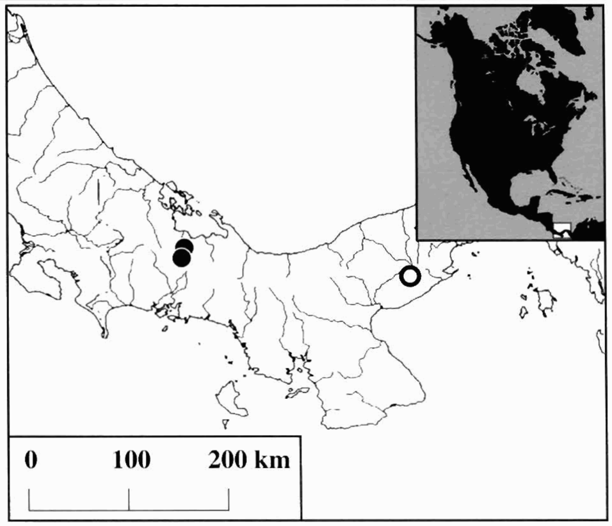
• **DESCRIPTIONS.** The original description of this species (Taylor 1969a) is reiterated in part in Taylor (1969b, 1972). Subdermal scales were described by Taylor (1972).

• **ILLUSTRATIONS.** Taylor (1969a, 1972) provided identical photographs of a paratype (see also Summers and Wake 2001) that included dorsal and ventral views of the entire specimen; a detail of the vent; dorsal, ventral, and lateral views of the head; dorsal, ventral, and lateral views of the skull; and several light micrographs of the scales. A better exposure of the skull photographs, with different pencil lines, is in Taylor (1969b).

• **DISTRIBUTION.** This caecilian is endemic to Panamá and fewer than 20 specimens have been deposited from three provinces (Bocas del Toro, Chiriquí, and Cochlé). The species' elevational range is 500–1100 m. All specimens have been collected within 20 km of the continental divide. The apparently disjunct range may reflect poor sampling of intervening areas.

• **FOSSIL RECORD.** None.

• **PERTINENT LITERATURE.** Other than Taylor (1969a, b, 1972), Savage and Wake (2001) included the species in a survey of Central American caecilians, Summers and Wake (2001) discussed the holotype, and Frank and Ramus (1995) proposed the common name, "Cocle Caecilian."



MAP. Distribution of *Caecilia volcani*; the circle marks the type locality, other known localities are marked with dots.

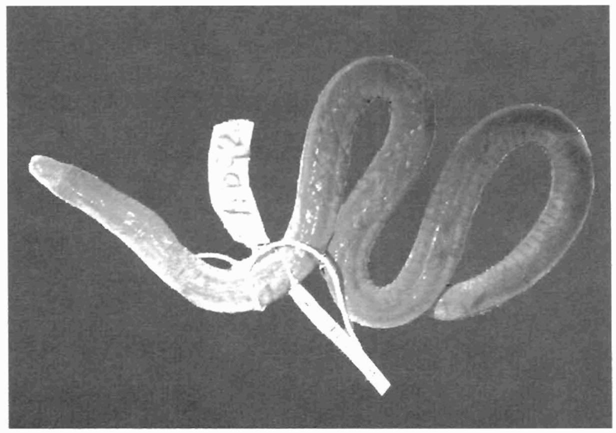


FIGURE. Dorsal view of the holotype of *Caecilia volcani* (KU 203035).

• **REMARKS.** Taylor (1969a) described collecting the type series with Charles Myers along the soft mud banks of a swampy area draining into a small stream. The series was ostensibly given field numbers (ETH-HMS 4689–4697, 4697A), but the series that was deposited in the Field Museum of Natural History (FMNH) did not include EHT-HMS 4689, which was designated the holotype and deposited in the University of Kansas Natural History Museum as KU 203035. Examination of FMNH 189208 (labelled EHT-HMS 4692) revealed it to be the specimen that was photographed in place of the holotype,although measurements of the holotype were made from KU 203035. Savage and Wake (2001) presented additional collection localities and a key to Middle American caecilians, including *C. volcani*.

• **ETYMOLOGY.** The species is named for Volcanus (Vulcan), the Roman god of fire, probably in reference to the volcanic origin of the highlands from which the type series was collected.

LITERATURE CITED

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